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An Elderly Couple Visits Arlington As Thousands Here Honor War Dead

By Connie Feeley
Staff Reporter

While bands blared and flags fluttered at Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater yesterday, an elderly couple leaned over a grave in the western section of the cemetery and silently paid respect to their dead.

Oblivious to the colorful national Memorial Day ceremony which drew a crowd of several thousand, the couple laid a cluster of flowers at a simple headstone bearing the name MacTaggart.

It was the grave of a Civil War artillery sergeant, John MacTaggart and his wife, Anna, both of whom died in the 1920s. Every year their grave is visited by their daughter, Jessie, now 78, and her husband, John D. Rhodes, 80.

Rhodes, a friendly, white-haired man with a white mustache, explained that Sgt. MacTaggart "served under General Grant in the East in the Army of the Potomac."

"My own father," he added, pointing toward another grave several rows away, "is buried here too. He served under Grant when he was along the Mississippi. That was earlier.

He was wounded. Lost a leg in Mississippi in the battle of Vicksburg, a small but a terrible battle."

Rhodes, who is head of the official reporters of debates in the Senate, and his wife headed for the second grave to lay flowers there, too. They were among the many clusters of people paying individual tribute to the dead throughout the cemetery.

Near a knoll near the Tomb of the Unknowns, the families of 14 Navy bandmen killed in an air crash in Brazil last February said prayers over the communal grave. One of the widows, Mrs. William F. Albrecht, of 6267 Akron st., Deer Park Heights, Md., laid roses on the flower-strewn mound as her youngest sons, Don, 5, and Robert, 8, stood beside her.

In another section of the cemetery, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Borum, of 970 Longfellow st. N.W., lingered at the grave of Borum's brother, James, a 21-year-old Army infantryman who died in a Communist prison camp in Korea in 1951. "He was my only brother," said Borum, a soft-spoken clerk for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Meanwhile, a red-white-and-blue wreath on behalf of Pres-

ident and Mrs. Eisenhower was being laid at the Tomb of the Unknowns in the brilliant ceremony honoring the Nation's war dead.

Afterwards Under Secretary of the Army Hugh M. Milton spoke at the annual Grand Army of the Republic service in the Amphitheater.

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